

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST PARK, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO ACQUIRE LAND SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S EVERGLADES AND FLORIDA'S COASTAL ESTUARIES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, America's Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem is a unique expanse of habitats, whose environmental health is critical to the economy and quality of life of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist unveiled a momentous strategy to bring about the largest environmental land acquisition in Florida's history and restore America's Everglades in a way never before anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the Governor announced that the South Florida Water Management District will begin negotiating an agreement with United States Sugar Corporation to purchase nearly 300 square miles of land spanning four counties in South Florida; and

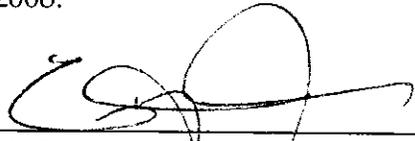
WHEREAS, the acquisition of as much as 187,000 acres of land south of Lake Okeechobee would provide the "missing link" needed to better protect the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries, and revive, restore and preserve one of America's greatest natural treasures - the Everglades; and

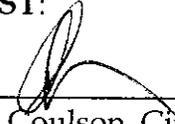
WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District and United States Sugar Corporation signed a "Statement of Principles" that provides the framework for the potential acquisition of property and assets; and

WHEREAS, through successful negotiations and strategic land swaps, vast tracts would be used to reestablish a part of the historic connection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades through a managed system of storage and treatment; and

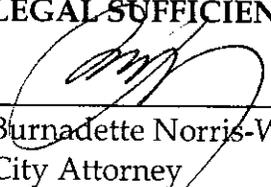
WHEREAS, dedicating significantly more land in the Everglades Agricultural Area to restoration will build upon and enhance the 30-year state-federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, offering the opportunity and flexibility to store and clean water on a scale never before contemplated; and

PASSED and ADOPTED this 6th day of August 2008.


Eric H. Jones, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Esther Coulson, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:


Burnadette Norris-Weeks, Esq.
City Attorney



Moved by: Dorsett

Seconded by: Fyffe

VOTE:

Commission Member Brunson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Commission Member Fyffe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Commission Member Mack	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No) <i>Assent</i>
Vice-Mayor Dorsett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Mayor Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)